

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 186017

11

ORIGIN NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-05

ERDA-07 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 EB-07 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 TVA-01

EPA-04 CEQ-01 /129 R

DRAFTED BY USNRC:RASTELLA

APPROVED BY OES/NET/IM: D.B. HOYLE

USNRC:JDLAFLEUR, JR.

IO/SCT - J.TREVITHICK

EUR/NE - P. CANNEY

EUR/CE - R. CASAGRANDE

EUR/SOV - L.WILLEMS

EUR/CAN -J.ROUSE

ARA/MEX - J.DREYFUSS

ARA/BR - R. ELTZ

UR/NE-K. SHIRLEY

EUR/RPE-G. WOLFE

EUR/WE-W.M. ARSH

EA/ROC-G. SCOTT

NEA/INS-B. BROWN

EA/J-J. DUNKERLEY

NEA/IRAN-B. MORTON

NEA/IA-W. COUVERIUS

ARA/APU-J. SMITH

EUR/WE-G. MOEN

EUR/CAN-D. BLAKEMORE

----- 109992

R 062207Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 186017

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 186017

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:TECH

SUBJECT:NRC ISSUES REPORT ON FIRE AT BROWNS FERRY
NUCLEAR PLANT

REF: A-2467

1. ON JULY 30 THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION MADE PUBLIC THE FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT OF ITS REVIEW OF THE MARCH 22, 1975, FIRE AT THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY'S BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT NEAR DECATUR, ALABAMA. THE FIELD INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED BY THE NRC'S OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT AND COVERS IN DETAIL THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE FIRE AND ITS AFTERMATH. TWO ADDITIONAL ASPECTS OF THE FIRE ARE BEING ADDRESSED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE COMMISSION.

2. NRC CHAIRMAN WILLIAM A. ANDERS SAID OF THE REPORT BEING RELEASED TODAY: "THE FIELD INVESTIGATION BY THE OFFICE OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 186017

INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT--THE FIRST OF THREE INTERRELATED NRC REVIEWS-- PRESENTS THE FACTS LEADING TO, DURING AND FOLLOWING THE FIRE. ADDITIONALLY A SPECIAL TECHNICAL GROUP IS LOOKING IN DETAIL AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE FIRE AND WILL DETERMINE WHERE IMPROVEMENTS IN NRC POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS ARE INDICATED. ALSO, AN EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY OF THE UNITS

DURING REPAIR AND RESTORATION AND OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE UNITS IS BEING CONDUCTED BY OUR OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACOR REGULATION. THUS, ALL THREE OF THE SEPARATE BUT RELATED ENDEAVORS WILL, WHEN COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR, CONSTITUTE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE INCIDENT. IT WAS THE DESIRE OF THE COMMISSION TO RELEASE THE I&E REPORT PROMPTLY IN ORDER TO MAKE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED PARTIES."

3. THE FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT, PERFORMED BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL OFFICE AND INVOLVING 280 MAN-DAYS OF WORK --NOTES THAT THE RADIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE ENVIRONMENT RESULTING FROM THIS FIRE WERE NO MORE THAN THOSE WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE NORMAL SHUT-DOWN OF THESE REACTORS AND WERE WELL WITHIN LIMITS ESTABLISHED BY THE NRC. INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT A BASIC CAUSE OF THE FIRE WAS A FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FLAMMABILITY OF THE MATERIALS INVOLVED IN THE FIRE. IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE FIRE WAS IGNITION OF POLYURETHANE FOAM SHEETING USED BY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS DURING SEALING OF PENETRATIONS. MEN WERE USING A CANDLE TO DETECT AIR LEAKAGE IN A CABLE PENETRATION BETWEEN UNIT 1 AND UNIT 2 CABLE SPEADING ROOM AND THE REACTOR BUILDING. THE CANDLE IGNITED THE POLYURETHANE FOAM SHEETING.

4. INVESTIGATION REPORT CITES ALLEGED UTILITY INFRACTIONS OF NRC REQUIREMENTS. THESE INVOLVE FAILURE TO MEET QUALITY ASSURANCE REQUIREMENTS IN THE AREAS OF TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTIONS, INSPECTION AND AUDIT PERFORMANCE, AND DESIGN CHANGE REVIEW; NONCOMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF AN EVALUATION RELATING TO A CHANGE IN THE FACILITY DESIGN; AND FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE UTILITY'S OWN PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 186017

5. AN ENFORCEMENT LETTER HAS BEEN SENT BY THE NRC ATLANTA REGIONAL OFFICE TO TVA. THE UTILITY HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPLY TO THESE ALLEGED ITEMS OF NONCOMPLIANCE, BEFORE ANY FINAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION IS TAKEN. IN ADDITION TO ITEMS OF NONCOMPLIANCE, LETTER LISTS A NUMBER OF AREAS OF CONCERN. THESE ITEMS DEAL PRINCIPALLY WITH MATTERS CONCERNING THE UTILITY'S ACTIONS DURING THE FIRE AND ITS STATE OF READINESS TO COPE WITH THE FIRE SITUATION. AS WITH THE ITEMS OF ALLEGED NONCOMPLIANCE, AN OPPORTUNITY IS AFFORDED FOR REPLY TO THESE MATTERS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NRC REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THIS INCIDENT HAS NOT YET BEEN CONCLUDED AND OTHER NRC ACTIONS MAY BE TAKEN.

6. THE NRC PRESS RELEASE WHICH INCLUDES THE INTRODUCTION

AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT IS
BEING FORWARDED VIA AIRGRAM WITH THE COMPLETE REPORT AND
EXHIBITS ATTACHED.

7. EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHES ARE ASKED TO PASS THE ABOVE
INFORMATION TO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TECHNICAL
NOTIFICATION ADDRESSEES PER REPAIR A-2467.

8. FOR BRUSSELS OFFICE IN ANSWER TO ZAVADOSKI
QUESTIONS OF JULY 30: AS A RESULT OF THE FIRE, UNITS 1
AND 2 REMAIN SHUT DOWN. REPAIRS ARE UNDER WAY AND FUEL
LOADING IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE ON DECEMBER 18, 1975.
UNIT 3 IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION WITH FUEL LOADING
SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE DECEMBER 15, 1975. CONCERNING NEW
YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL LOUIS J. LEFKOWITZ SUIT
ON SHIPMENT OF PLUTONIUM, CASE REMAINS IN ABEYANCE
PENDING
POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, I.E. REP. JAMES H. SCHENER
AMENDMENT TO NRC'S FISCAL 1976 AUTHORIZATION BILL. MORE
DETAILED INFORMATION BEING MAILED TODAY. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTIGATIONS, FIRES, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE186017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RASTELLA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750272-0978
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750876/aaaacpho.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NRC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-2467
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 DEC 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NRC ISSUES REPORT ON FIRE AT BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT
TAGS: TECH, US
To: BERN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006